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## McCone and CIA



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JOHN A. McCONE (above), director of the CIA, is leaving the administration and an active search is now underway for a replacement. Family considerations, business interests and relations with the President all play a part in the decision. The story by David Wise is on page 2.

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# Hunt on for CIA Chief; McCone Wants to Leave

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An active search is under way within the Administration for a replacement for CIA director John A. McCone, who is leaving the government.

Informed sources said no date has been set for Mr. McCone's departure, nor had the list of possible successors been narrowed as yet to one man. But it was understood that the effort to find a replacement has been in progress for some days.

Several factors were listed by persons thoroughly familiar with the situation: age—Mr. McCone will be 63 on Jan. 4—family considerations, business interests and an underlying assumption that President Johnson might like to see his own choice in the ultra-sensitive post.

In addition, although the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency has worked closely with President Johnson—participating in yesterday's top-level meeting on Viet Nam, for example—Mr. McCone is not believed to have had the same degree of access to the White House, or the same personal relationship, that he enjoyed under President Kennedy, who named him to the post in 1961.

### FAR FROM HOME

Although the job of CIA director does not carry Cabinet rank, it is one of the most important in the government. The CIA chief is not only in charge of the nation's spies, but as Director of Central Intelligence, he presides over all of the government's intelligence arms, supervising the secret gathering and evaluation of the facts the President needs for decision-making.

Mr. McCone, serving in his fourth government post, is said to feel that after three years in the demanding job of CIA director he has earned the right to return to private life and his extensive West Coast business interests.

Another personal consideration is the fact that Mrs. McCone, the former Thelma McGee Pigott, spends a good deal of time on the West Coast looking after her own family and business affairs. The widow of a wealthy Seattle industrialist, she was married to Mr. McCone in August, 1962.

Twelve days ago, the CIA chief discussed his plans at a luncheon meeting with former Under Secretary of Defense Roswell L. Gilpatric, who left the Pentagon to return to his New York law practice last January.

Although Mr. Gilpatric is not pictured as eager to re-

turn to government service, his name has figured in conversations within the Administration as a possible successor to Mr. McCone. He has by no means been tapped for the CIA post, however.

### GILPATRIC FAVORED

In 1951, Mr. Gilpatric succeeded Mr. McCone as Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Both Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President for national security, are said to look with favor on Mr. Gilpatric as a possible successor to Mr. McCone.

Mr. Bundy himself has been suggested as a potential CIA chief, principally by career officials of the intelligence agency, but he is not believed to be interested in a post that in a sense is subordinate to the powerful position he now occupies.

Mr. McCone became director of Central Intelligence in November, 1961. President Kennedy named him after the Bay of Pigs invasion failure made inevitable a shakeup at CIA.

The then chairman of the President's Foreign Intelli-

gence Advisory Board, James R. Killian Jr., president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, read about the appointment in a newspaper. There was grumbling within the board that it had not been consulted.

### NO VACANCY

The present chairman of the President's advisory board is Washington attorney Clark M. Clifford, a close friend and adviser of President Johnson. His advice is likely to be influential in the search for a new CIA chief.

Mr. McCone will not retire until that search is completed, since the post is not one that can be left vacant, even for a few days, because of its nature.